

1989-11

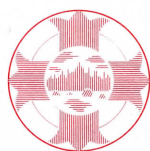
# BUSM News & Notes:

## November/December 1989 no. 131

---

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/20931>

*Boston University*



Boston University  
School of Medicine

1839 | 1989

BOSTON UNIVERSITY  
SESQUICENTENNIAL

# News & Notes

November/December 1989  
Issue #131

## Medical students teach teenagers about realities of AIDS

BUSM students are conducting unique interactive discussions at neighborhood community centers to teach teenagers about AIDS. The program—Students Teaching AIDS to Students (STATS)—educates adolescents about AIDS: who is at risk, how it is transmitted, what treatments are available and, most important, how it can be prevented.

During a typical STATS session, two trained medical students—usually a male and a female—present information about AIDS through discussion, games, a question and answer period and a video program. The teenagers are encouraged to submit anonymous questions and are given information sheets listing AIDS hotlines, support groups and other services. While each STATS session follows the same format, the medical students vary the program depending upon the ages and experiences of their audience, using vocabulary and cultural examples appropriate to their audience.

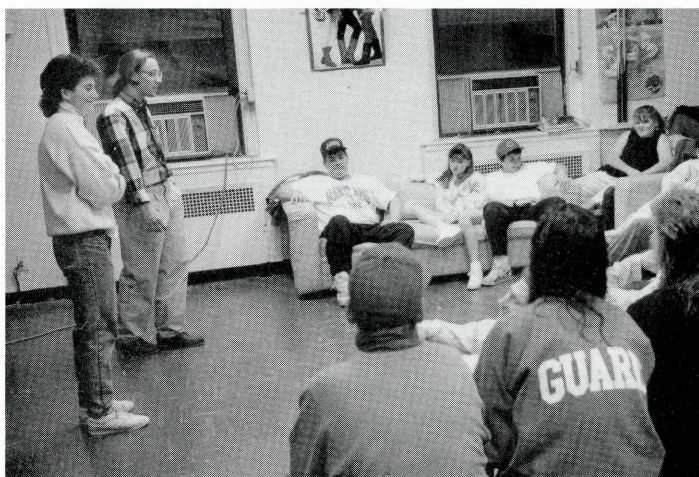
By presenting their discussions in community centers where attendance is voluntary, the students hope to reach teenagers who are interested in learning about and preventing the spread of AIDS. "We're not that much older than some of the teenagers we're talking to," says Dennis Crawford, a BUSM student and co-director of the program. "It's easy for us to relate to some of their concerns."

The medical students undergo hours of preparation before they are considered trained to lead the discussions. Experts from BUSM and Boston City Hospital teach them about the scientific and clinical aspects of HIV and AIDS—subjects generally not covered during the first two years of medical school. Experienced educators also talk with the medical students about how to approach teenagers about these sensitive issues. Prior to their first STATS session, students rehearse their discussions and are evaluated by other presenters. Currently, 40 first- and second-year students are prepared to lead sessions.

Andy Chio, a BUSM student and co-director of the project, says plans for STATS involve increasing the number of medical students who are interested in teaching teens about AIDS, reaching more neighborhoods, offering the sessions to older age groups and possibly developing a curriculum in Spanish.

## Researchers link vasectomies with prostate cancer

BUSM researchers have observed a statistical association between men who have undergone vasectomies and the risk of prostate cancer—a finding made during the course of multiple



*At a recent STATS session held at the South Boston Boys' and Girls' Club, BUSM students Stacey Silver and Adam Jonas lead a discussion about how AIDS is transmitted. (Photo by Brad Herzog)*

comparisons in a large data base. Lynn Rosenberg, Sc.D., an associate professor of public health, compared 226 men with prostate cancer with two control groups. According to Rosenberg, the estimated risk of prostate cancer was three times greater in men with vasectomies.

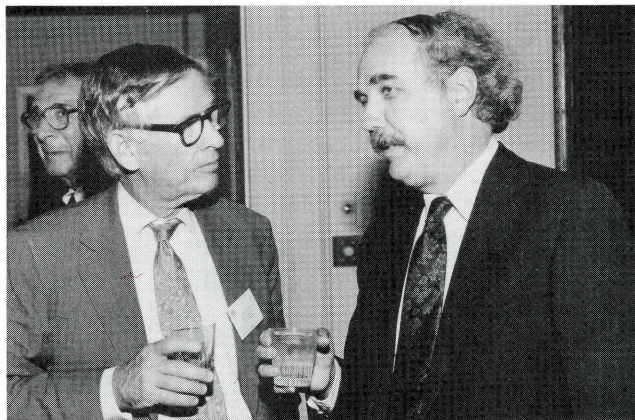
Rosenberg, who is also assistant director of the Slone Epidemiology Unit of BUSM, emphasizes that these findings are preliminary and further research is needed to confirm the data.

## SPH receives grant to study how psychosocial factors affect health

Carolyn M. Aldwin, Ph.D., an assistant professor of public health (social and behavioral sciences), recently received a five-year, \$336,609 research grant from the National Institute on Aging to study how psychosocial factors—including personality, social integration and cognition—affect health among older men.

By exploring how non-physiological factors contribute to disease and death, Aldwin and her colleagues anticipate gaining insight into longevity and improving the quality of life for the elderly. Assisting Aldwin with the study are Avron Spiro III, Ph.D., an assistant professor of public health (epidemiology and biostatistics), and Raymond Bosse, Ph.D., an adjunct professor of public health (social and behavioral sciences).





*Daniel Bernstein, M.D., associate dean of resources and hospital affiliations, talks with Philip Carling, M.D., director of the Department of Medicine at Carney Hospital and a BUSM assistant professor of Medicine, at the recent affiliates' dinner. (Photo by Louis Martin)*

## Dean gives update of Medical School growth plans at affiliates' dinner

At the School of Medicine's recent annual affiliates' dinner, Dean Chobanian outlined plans for expansion at the School. "We are continuing to experience growth at the School of Medicine," the Dean said. "We're in the process of adding a new research building and hope to develop more classrooms and housing for medical students." The Dean also noted that although applications to medical schools have been dropping, the number of applications to BUSM has increased somewhat.

Approximately 35 representatives from the 30 Massachusetts hospitals affiliated with the School attended the dinner, held at Boston's St. Botolph Club. According to Daniel Bernstein, M.D., the associate dean of resources and hospital affiliations, the event provides an opportunity for BUSM and hospital administrators to shift their focus from conducting business to fostering communication.

## Special interventions needed for pregnant women who drink heavily

To help the large number of pregnant women who are addicted to alcohol, intervention strategies must be targeted specifically to the needs of the addicted women and not to the general public, according to a paper by researchers at the Fetal Alcohol Education Program at BUSM. The paper was published in a recent issue of *The International Journal of Addictions*.

"Warning labels, information and slogans are not designed for the addicted woman," says Lyn Weiner, M.P.H., the executive director of the Fetal Alcohol Education Program. These strategies, which focus on educating the general population about the risks of alcohol use during pregnancy, are inappropriate and possibly countertherapeutic to the women who need help most, says Weiner. Addicted women may not respond to these messages because of fear, implied punishment and the lack of information about how to change these behaviors.

"We must motivate women to seek treatment, not frighten or

scare them," says Weiner, who also is an associate professor of psychiatry (public health). Studies have shown that pregnant addicted women respond to supportive counseling and that they are able to reduce their alcohol consumption during pregnancy. Weiner recommends carefully planned, individual intervention strategies offered in a nonjudgmental atmosphere.

According to Weiner, it is well documented that alcohol consumption during pregnancy is a risk factor for a variety of problems in the developing fetus. Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS)—characterized by growth retardation, facial deformity, central nervous system anomalies and morphologic abnormalities—occurs only in children born to chronic alcoholic women. Other alcohol-related problems occur in children born to women who drink heavily. The earlier during pregnancy that excessive alcohol use is stopped, the fewer abnormalities are observed in newborns.

## Reception for BUSM parents draws largest turnout to date

Recent academic appointments and new areas of emphasis at the School were outlined by Dean Chobanian to the largest group of parents and students to ever attend the Parents' Committee reception. Approximately 200 attended the event, held in October in the Hiebert Lounge.

During his presentation, Dr. Chobanian spoke of the recent appointments of two new deans, Kenneth Edelin, M.D., as associate dean for student and minority affairs, and Carl Franzblau, Ph.D., dean for graduate biomedical science studies. He also mentioned the changes in the tutorial systems at the School to make the systems a formalized activity, and spoke about the increased emphasis being placed on the M.D./Ph.D. program. Also addressing the attendants was Alan Edelstein, a long-time friend of the School, who with his wife, Sybil, founded the Parents' Committee.

The reception also featured a tour of the student computer lab, a presentation of a videotape on BUSM in the news and a question and answer period.

## Graduate students present findings on how drugs affect central nervous system

Several BUSM graduate students recently made presentations on how various drugs of abuse affect the central nervous system. The students, along with Conan Kornetsky, Ph.D., a professor of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics and psychiatry, made their presentations, based on their studies using animal models of drug-induced euphoria, at the 1989 Annual Meeting of the Society of Neuroscience in Phoenix, Ariz.

The students and their areas of research are: Jondavid Pollock, persistence and dopamine in morphine-induced stereotypy; Marjorie Moolten, oral self-administration of ethanol versus experimentally administered ethanol facilitates rewarding electrical brain stimulation; Michael Bird, the effects of SCH 23390 on rewarding brain stimulation/evidence for partial D1 mediation of the threshold lowering effects of MDMA; David Huston-Lyons, both morphine and cocaine increase glucose metabolism in the olfactory tubercle in freely-moving rats.



## Gottlieb and colleagues present papers at conference in Israel

Leonard S. Gottlieb, M.D., chairman of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and a group of his colleagues attended the Second International Conference on Gastrointestinal Cancer held in Jerusalem, from August 27 to September 1. Several papers covering recent advances in epidemiology, diagnosis, experimental models and biology of colorectal adenomas were presented.

Papers presented included: "Kaposi's Sarcoma and the G.I. Tract" and "Biology of the Colonic Adenoma: Definitions, Dysplasia and Altered Phenotype," presented by Michael O'Brien, M.D., a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine and associate director of the Mallory Institute; "Experimental Models for the Study of Colorectal Adenomas," presented by O'Brien and co-authored by Herbert Z. Kupchik, Ph.D., an associate professor of microbiology and pathology, and Paul C. Schroy III, an assistant professor of medicine.

Also presented were: "Dietary and Nutritional Factors in Experimental Hepatocarcinogenesis," presented by Adrienne E. Rogers, M.D., a professor and associate chairperson of pathology and public health (environmental health), and co-authored by Steven H. Zeisel, M.D., Ph.D., an associate professor of pathology and an assistant professor of pediatrics; "The National Polyp Study: The Adenoma's Natural History and Potential for Recurrence," co-authored by Gottlieb, O'Brien and Carol Magrath, pathology coordinator for the National Polyp study and an administrative assistant at the Mallory Institute; "Hepatocarcinogenesis in Light of the 'Streaming Liver' Theory," presented by Gershon Zajicek, M.D., a professor of experimental oncology and medicine at the Hebrew University and a visiting professor in the Department of Pathology at BUSM.

In addition, Gottlieb and O'Brien co-chaired a session on colorectal adenoma sponsored by the World Health Organization, and O'Brien co-chaired a symposium titled "Biology of the Colonic Adenoma." Also attending the conference from BUSM was Bohdana F. Burke, M.D., an assistant professor of pathology and director of the immuno-histochemistry laboratory at the Mallory Institute.

While in Jerusalem, Gottlieb, who is also director of the Louis and Charlotte Kaitz BUSM/Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School Faculty/Student Exchange Program, met with Schmuël Rasin, M.D., the dean of the Hadassah Medical School, and with Alan Rubinow, M.D., director of the Exchange Programs.

## Coco hosts national seminar

Frank V. Coco, M.D., director of medical education at Framingham Union Hospital, hosted a national seminar on the topic "How to Formulate the Optimal Transitional Year Residency Program." The seminar was part of the Annual Association of American Colleges and Association for Hospital Medical Education meeting in Washington, D.C., in October. Coco, who is also an associate clinical professor of medicine at BUSM, is a member of the National Council for Transitional Year Program Directors.



*Dean Chobanian presents a plaque from the Syntex Corporation to Victoria Herrera, M.D., one of two 1989 Syntex Scholars. (Photo by Dominic Screnci, BUSM Educational Media Support Center)*

## Herrera named 1989 Syntex Scholar

Victoria L. M. Herrera, M.D., an instructor of medicine, has been named a Scholar in the 1989 Syntex Scholars Program. The Program, directed by Dr. Gwynn C. Akin, is designed to recognize scientists who have demonstrated outstanding potential for independent contributions in cardiovascular research. The awards are made to scientists who are in the formative stages of their careers and are intended to enhance the recipients' research capabilities. Each year Syntex makes two awards of \$150,000 over three years to two U.S. academic institutions on behalf of the Scholars.

## Hospice of Boston honors faculty member

Hospice of Boston, a nonprofit organization that provides home-care for terminally ill patients, presented its first humanitarian award to Ronald N. Margolin, M.D., medical director of Hospice of Boston and a clinical instructor of medicine at BUSM. Margolin received the award at a banquet in his honor on October 18, at the Pier Four Restaurant in Boston.

According to Ruth Capernaros, executive director of Hospice of Boston, Margolin's energy, dedication and compassion are the foundation of the program. "He understands the needs of the terminally ill patients and makes sure their needs are met. There would be no Hospice of Boston without him," she adds.

Margolin began working at Hospice of Boston (then called Dorchester Bay Hospice) in 1982 as an oncology consultant, and became medical director in 1984. Throughout his years at Hospice of Boston he has never accepted payment for his services. The organization offers nursing, social, and pastoral services, as well as bereavement counseling, to terminally ill patients and their families.

Margolin is also the medical director of the Carney Hospital Hospice Program and a Hospice Consultant for the John Hancock Insurance Company. He belongs to the Massachusetts Medical Association, the American and Massachusetts Societies of Internal Medicine and the Massachusetts Society of Community Oncologists.



---

## **Application deadline announced for Whitaker Health Sciences Fund**

The Whitaker Health Sciences Fund, a nonprofit organization that supports biomedical research collaboration between faculties at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and BUSM, Tufts University School of Medicine and Harvard Medical School, announced its annual application deadline of January 15, 1990. All BUSM research proposals should be submitted to department chairpersons. Ten one-year grants will be given for \$48,000 (supplemented by an additional award to the collaborating institutions for indirect costs) beginning July 1, 1990. Emphasis is placed on junior faculty members at the medical schools collaborating with junior or senior faculty members at MIT involving interdisciplinary areas of medicine and science or engineering. For further information, contact the Whitaker Health Sciences fund office at 253-7878.

## **Upcoming CME courses**

"Pediatrics: New Challenges for the '90s," focusing on controversies in pediatric practice and emphasizing emerging issues as the new decade begins, will be held February 19-22 in Camino Real, Ixtapa, Mexico.

"The Ninth Annual Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Trauma" course will be held February 26-March 2 at Topnotch Resort and Spa in Stowe, Vt. This course is designed for emergency physicians, orthopedic surgeons, family practitioners and other health professionals who treat athletic related injuries. Michael Corbett, M.D., an assistant clinical professor of orthopedic surgery, is the course director. For more information, contact the Department of Continuing Medical Education at 638-4605 (x4605).

*News & Notes is a publication of the Office of Publication Services. If you have news of interest to the BUSM community, please contact Angela Cochran, x8482 (638-8482) or write to her at the Office of Publication Services, DOB-915 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118).*

## **News & Notes**

Boston University School of Medicine  
Office of Publication Services  
720 Harrison Avenue, Suite 915  
Boston, Massachusetts 02118-2393

---

Non profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Boston, Mass.  
Permit No. 53312

---